Fixation of prices under Conditional Access System

†4582. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed prices under Conditional Access System;

(b) if so, whether Government have selected any grounds for fixation of prices; and

(c) if so, the detail of such grounds and the names of the parties consulted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Cable Television Networks Regulation Amendment Act, 2002, Central Government may specify the maximum amount which a cable operator may demand from the subscriber for receiving the programmes transmitted in the Basic Service Tier of Free to Air channels. Accordingly, a "Task Force" has been constituted comprising of representatives of all the stakeholders of this Industry including broadcasters, manufacturers, MSOs, cable operators and representatives of Consumer Organisations. The terms of reference of the Task Force *inter alia*, included making recommendation about the size and cost of basic Service Tier of free-to Air Channels.

Based on the inputs and wide consultation from a vast section of the Industry and an exercise conducted by the Cost and Accounts Branch of Ministry of Finance, the Task Force has decided the cost of Basic Service Tier of Free-to-Air Channels, which has been approved by the Government. A notification is being issued in this regard very shortly.

Proposal to revamp AIR and DD

4583. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revamp AIR and Doordarshan at an enormous cost;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.